

LUTON TOWN DISSATISFIED

Unlucky in a Great Game at Plymouth.

ARGYLE'S WINNING GOAL DISPUTED.

(By DEVONIS.)

There is no team more welcome at Plymouth than Luton Town, and their visit on Saturday was no exception to the rule. They invariably provide the Argyle with a couple of points, and that pleases the home players and supporters. Then they never fail to put up a fine fight, and that is no small consideration from the point of view of the club and "gate." In all the many matches I have seen them play at Plymouth they have never fought more gallantly than on Saturday, and while I think that the Argyle just about deserving of the spoils on the run of the play, with the majority of spectators I am bound to admit that Luton were most unlucky to be beaten by a goal, which, to say the least, was of a very doubtful character, and where there is a doubt it is an axiom that the defending side should benefit. I will deal with the point in dispute later.

The weather was fine, and there were 14,000 spectators when the following turned out:—

PLYMOUTH.—Craig; Russell, Titmus; Preston, McKenzie, Hardie; Matthews, Forbes, Cock, Leslie, Black.

LUTON.—Mingay; Graham, Till; Neal, Rennie, Millar; Moffat, Thomson, Thompson, Agnew, Dennis.

Referee: Mr. E. E. Small, Bristol.

Play opened in favour of the Argyle, but that was quite as expected, for the long journey to Plymouth had been undertaken by the visitors on Saturday morning, and in the early stages they were slow of motion, the home forwards being very much quicker on the ball. Less than three minutes had elapsed before the Luton goal fell. FORBES, receiving a pass midway between the centre and the penalty area, made two or three feints and then suddenly let drive to beat Mingay all ends up with a beautiful shot. There was a brief but ineffective skirmish by Luton, and then the Argyle came down again, and Leslie's clever footwork tied up the Luton defence, and a fine pass gave COCK a chance, of which he took full advantage, Mingay being helpless. So it seemed that in seven minutes the Argyle had clinched the matter and gained

ANOTHER RUNG

on the ladder of promotion. No so, for Luton came along with new energy, and a fierce attack found the home backs and Craig harassed persistently. Several shots were fired, and Craig once saved at full length and resisted attempts to dislodge him, while a grand shot from Agnew skimmed the bar. It was obvious that the pressure must succeed unless there was a stiffening of the home defence, and this did not come. Twenty minutes had passed when the ball was swung over from the Luton right, and DENNIS, meeting it on the run, scored with a terrific shot. This reverse woke up the Argyle forwards, and they went straight down, and from a scramble FORBES shot through a crowd of players to register the third goal. The spectators were now

AT FEVER HEAT,

and they had another thrill immediately, for the Luton forwards rushed away, outmanoeuvred the home halves and backs, and before Craig knew what was happening, AGNEW had beaten him with a fine drive. The pace was a killer, and both sides maintained their seal and carried the ball from end to end at a rattling pace, with the crowd cheering continuously. The defences, however, were well on top now, and there was little escaped them. At half-time the score read:—

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE 3 goals

LUTON TOWN 2 goals

The Argyle went off on the resumption in the same fashion that they had opened the game, but this time the Luton defenders were on the alert. Mingay saved finely, and both Till and Graham stopped dangerous advances. Then the Luton right wing progressed, and it seemed that

an equaliser must come when Titmus was hoodwinked, but Craig brought off a brilliant save from Moffat. Luton continued to show fine form, and the home defence was sorely taxed, but Russell was on his best behaviour, and it was mainly through his good work that the home side went to the attack again. A free kick well out was received by COCK, who went ahead and cleared opposition. Mingay ran out, but the Argyle leader tapped the ball past him. Graham ran across and with a huge kick landed the ball into touch. There was

WILD CONSTERNATION

among the Luton players when the referee blew for a goal and pointed to the centre. In spite of protests he declined to consult the linesmen or to alter his decision, or to inspect the mark where Graham had lunged at the ball in the goal-mouth. This was Plymouth's hundredth goal, and was received with tremendous cheering, but it was a most unsatisfactory point. This would have taken the heart out of most teams, but not so Luton. They put still more fight into their efforts, and with the forwards constantly pressing on the home backs, the Plymouth goal underwent some exciting scenes. Barely 29 minutes of this half had elapsed when the bit of extra fire and pace with which the Luton forwards swept through the home halves found the Plymouth defenders in

A FRANTIC STATE,

and Norman THOMSON dodged Titmus and fired a great goal.

The rest of the game was in Luton's favour, for they taxed the home defence to its fullest limit, and several good shots came within an ace of scoring. Plymouth were not idle, but the visitors were very much in earnest, and the ball was often in touch when it was brought to the home half. The best effort of the home team in the last twenty minutes was by Cock, who tested Mingay with a beauty, but found him safe, and so the Argyle retired with the points.

For the home side Russell was the outstanding figure in the defence, the halves were not capable of holding the visiting forwards, and the credit for the victory goes chiefly to Russell and Cock, the latter being in fine form.

Luton impressed as

ONE OF THE FINEST SIDES

seen at Home Park this season. Their defence was shaky in the early stages, but that was excusable in view of the long journey. Mingay was a fine goalkeeper, and his backs played strong, courageous football, both kicking and tackling spiritedly. The halves were resolute, and they fed their forwards finely. Rennie was sometimes at a loss in dealing with the three clever inside men, but he compensated by the efficient way in which he fed his forwards. Neal found his opposition too clever at times, but he hustled in, and much of the clever work of his right wing was due to his nice passes, while Millar was a grand worker, and got the better of Matthews and Forbes more often than not when he had got into his stride. The forwards were

A LIVE AND PENETRATIVE FORCE.

The strength of James Thompson was a powerful factor. Over and over again he upset the unanimity of Russell and Titmus, and although he did not score, he paved the way for clever wing work by sending the ball out accurately to his flanks. Norman Thomson struck one as being a real artist with the ball, and he made Moffat a clever raider, but the wing man seemed selfish and failed to get the ball over several times after he had made a lot of headway and drawn the defence. Dennis and Agnew were a bright pair, and their combination elicited general praise. The latter was a magnificent worker, and times out of number he gave beautiful passes to Dennis, who made good use of them.